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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR DS/IP/NEA, DS/IP/ITA, INR AND NEA

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SUBJECT: SE TURKEY SECURITY INCIDENTS: OCTOBER 12 -18, 2009

¶1. The following security incidents for the period of October 12-18, 2009 were compiled by the security assistant at Consulate Adana from RSO sources, to include Turkish security contacts, government officials and media. Similar reports have been previously shared informally by e-mail. Post is now sending this information in cable format to ensure wider and more regular distribution. The RSO uses the information to determine the security situation and trends of violence and crime throughout Turkey. The RSO shares the information with the country team and visas viper coordinator.

¶2. Military operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) as reported by the Turkish General Staff:

¶A. Weapons, ammunition, and equipment seized:

Sirnak - 10.17.09: 1 Kalashnikov infantry rifle, 5 magazines, 150 rounds of Kalashnikov rifle ammunition, 2 hand grenades, 1 pair of binoculars and money.

Siirt - 10.17.09: 84 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, 500 grams of A-4 plastic explosive materials, and 75 centimeters of time-fuse.

Hakkari - 10.16.09: 1 RPG-7 rocket launcher and 3 rounds of RPG-7 ammunition.

Sirnak - 10.15.09: 1 pair of binoculars, 1 RPG-7 rocket launcher and 1 round of RPG-7 ammunition.

Diyarbakir - 10.15.09: 18 kilograms of ammonium nitrate.

Mardin - 10.13.09: 2 kilograms ammonium nitrate, 600 grams of A-4 plastic explosives, 2 electrical fuses, and one IED made of 14 batteries.

¶B. PKK members captured or surrendered:

10.12.09 through 10.18.09: Security forces neutralized 10 total PKK members. 1 was killed and 9 surrendered to security officials.

Siirt - 10.16.09: 1 PKK member surrendered.

Sirnak - 10.15.09: 1 PKK member surrendered.

Siirt - 10.14.09: 1 PKK member captured.

Sirnak - 10.15.09: 1 PKK member killed. 1 pair of night-vision goggles, 1 wireless radio, and various pieces of logistical equipment were seized and destroyed in the operation.

Sirnak - 10.14.09: 7 PKK members surrendered.

¶C. PKK attacks:

Hakkari - 10.17.09: A civilian was wounded by a PKK landmine.

Sirnak - 10.16.09: PKK members attacked a military patrol team, wounding 2 troops.

Hakkari - 10.13.09: A remote-controlled IED exploded as a military vehicle was passing by the area; no injuries reported.

Sirnak - 10.13.09: 2 troops were wounded in a IED blast.

Sirnak - 10.13.09: A round of booby-trapped artillery ammunition blasted as a military vehicle was passing by. There was no loss of life or injury in the incident.

13. Media reports related to PKK and pro-Kurdish organizations

1A. Anti-PKK operations:

Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) anti-PKK operations in SE Turkey continues. Many armored vehicles, military personnel and ammunition were sent to the operation areas in Sirnak (Mount Cudi and Cehennem Deresi/Hell River), Siirt, Hakkari, Agri (Cumacay), Mardin (Mazidagi), and Diyarbakir.

1N. Iraq - 10.13.09: TAF bombed the Zap and Haftanin region. The anti-PKK operation launched on October 7 in the mountainous terrain of Dogubeyazit district (Agri province) continues.

1B. Arrests:

Van - 10.18.09: Security forces caught 2 people trying to recruit members for the PKK. The 2 were later released by a court decision.

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Sirnak - 10.17.09: Security forces detained 1 person suspected of terrorism.

Diyarbakir - 10.16.09: 3 people, who were threatening shopkeepers on behalf of the PKK for shutting down their establishments, were arrested on the charge of "threatening the public."

Sirnak - 10.14.09: 2 people were arrested on the charge of "assisting the PKK."

Sirnak - 10.14.09: DTP mayor of Kumcati was sentenced to 4 years in prison on charges of "assisting and harboring the PKK."

Diyarbakir - 10.14.09: Security forces detained 7 people preparing to carry out PKK terrorist activities. The suspects later were arrested on the charges of "possessing explosive material" and "being members of the PKK."

Hakkari - 10.14.09: Security forces detained a person on the suspicion of terrorist activity.

Siirt - 10.14.09: Former DTP district chairman of Kurtulan district was sentenced to 5 months in prison for terrorist activity.

Van -10.14.09: 4 of 11 people were arrested on the charge of "carrying out an illegal demonstration on behalf of the PKK" for taking to the street on October 9 to protest the expulsion of Abdullah Ocalan from Syria.

Sanliurfa - 10.13.09: 7 people, including a DTP Viransehir District Chairman, were sentenced to 2 and 2.5 years in prison on charges of "violating restrictions on marches and demonstrations."

Adana - 10.13.09: The secretary of Adana's Human Rights Association was sentenced to 10 months in prison on a charge of "making propaganda for the terror organization PKK."

1C. Other media stories about PKK:

10.18.09 - Minister of Justice Sadullah Ergin announced new prisoners will be transferred to the Imrali Island prison "in a week to 10 days."

10.18.09: Approximately 32 PKK members are expected to surrender to security forces in Silopi on October 19 as a peace gesture in support of a solution to the Kurdish issue. They will enter Turkey across the Iraqi border at Habur Gate.

10.17.09 - PKK plans to leave Armenia as Turkish-Armenian ties develop, making it more difficult to find safehavens in the region. Many PKK members traveled to Armenia after the TAF launched cross-border operations in northern Iraq in February 2008 to eliminate PKK camps.

10.17.09 - It is reported that PKK will engage in provocative actions such as hunger strikes at prisons to increase its jailed members' morale.

10.14.09: The U.S. Treasury Department declared that Murat Karayilan, a PKK commander in northern Iraq, and PKK members Ali Riza Altun and Zubayir Aydar, were international drug smugglers. The designation would freeze any U.S.-based assets and prohibit U.S. citizens from doing business with them.

10.13.09: PJAK has started to increase its illegal drug activities in Iran. Iranian forces stormed a house in Dilazi Village of Salmas Town and captured 2 PJAK members and killed 3; security forces seized 560 kilograms of hashish and \$300,000.

10.13.09: According to a report from the Turkish Ministry of the Interior, since 2003, Syria has handed over 122 terrorists, including 77 PKK members.

10.14.09 through 10.18.09: Protests were held in Hakkari, Sanliurfa, and Batman to protest Ocalan's cell confinement punishment.

10.14.09: Thousands of DTP members in Van, Siirt, Diyarbakir, Mardin, Sirnak, Hakkari, Agri, Igdir, Bitlis, Mus, and Kars held sit-in activities to protest the GOT's stance on Abdullah Ocalan's road map.

Sirnak - 10.18.09: PKK members attacked a military patrol team and wounded 2 troops.

Diyarbakir - 10.18.09: 57 NGOs in Diyarbakir released a press statement supporting the Kurdistan Democratic Confederation's

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(KCK) decision to send peace teams.

14. Media reports on significant crime or security incidents:

10.18.09: According to official statistics, 2,500 people were injured and 580 were killed by landmines or war ordnances between 1993 and 2003. In the past two years alone, 56 civilians were killed and 132 were wounded.

Hakkari - 10.17.09: A civilian was shot dead; motive is unknown.

Adana - 10.16.09: Security forces stormed 35 separate houses and detained 36 people in anti-theft operation. 345 police officers joined in the operations. 5 kilograms of hashish, 4 pistols, and 1 rifle were seized in the operations.

Kars - 10.14.09: Security forces found 1 round of unexploded artillery.

Hakkari - 10.14.09: A person sitting in a cafe was attacked by an unidentified gunman. The person was heavily wounded. Motive is unknown.

Sanliurfa - 10.14.09: A police patrol vehicle was attacked by unidentified people with long-range rifles; no injuries

reported.

Hakkari - 10.13.09: TAF declared Kirikdag Village Hakkari a military security zone due to impending military operations; the public is banned from entering or exiting the area.

Diyarbakir - 10.13.09: Turkish Ziraat Bank was robbed by armed assailants.

Adana - 10.13.09: Security forces found 28 rounds of G-3 and Kalashnikov rifle ammunition in a rural area.

Hatay - 10.13.09: Security forces seized 3 rifles, 1 pistol, 17 magazines and 700 rounds of ammunition in an anti-smuggling operation.

15. Illegal immigrant arrests:

10.12.09 through 10.15.09: Security forces captured and deported 300 illegal immigrants from: Istanbul, Edirne, Mersin, Kayseri, Agri, Erzurum, Igdir, Kilis, Sirnak, Van, Canakkale, Bitlis, Hatay, Aydin, and the borders of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Greece.

16. Counter-narcotic operations:

Sanliurfa - 10.18.09: Security forces seized 25 kilograms of hashish.

Adiyaman - 10.18.09: Security forces seized 17 kilograms of hashish and 25 seeds of cannabis.

Adana - 10.16.09: Security forces confiscated 15 kilograms of hashish and arrested 3 people.

Adiyaman - 10.14.09: Security forces seized 18 kilograms of hashish and detained 11 people.

Bingol - 10.14.09: Security forces seized 8 kilograms of hashish and arrested 1 person.

Van - 10.14.09: Security forces seized 66 kilograms of hashish.

Bingol - 10.13.09: Security forces seized 8 kilograms of hashish.

Diyarbakir - 10.13.09: Security forces seized 36 kilograms of hashish.

17. Anti-al-Qaeda operations in SE Turkey:

10.14.09: Turkish police detained 57 people in anti-terrorism operations launched simultaneously in 11 provinces. The suspects, believed to be members of the Islamic Jihad League (IJL), a group linked to al-Qaeda, were allegedly plotting to attack NATO and American installations in Turkey and Germany. The Istanbul and Van police departments carried out operations in the provinces of Istanbul, Van, Bursa, Erzurum, Sakarya, Konya, Hatay, Batman and Adana.

According to Turkish National Police contacts in the region:

- 1 al-Qaeda member was captured in Hatay.
 - 1 al-Qaeda member was captured in Adana, and is suspected only of being a sympathizer.
 - 44 IJL members detained in Van, all suspected of active membership in preparations to carry out an attack, although the threat was long term and not imminent.
- DARNELL